

CHAPTER VIII

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND RECREATION

Among the many aspects of frontier life there were those which served to take the hard edge from pioneering. Early doctors and midwives brought comfort to the sick. Music and drama were uplifting factors; and dancing, games, and festive occasions brought recreation to those whose life otherwise was a steady program of work in the homes and fields.

DOCTORS AND MIDWIVES

All early accounts of life in Provo Valley which mention Robert McKnight pay grateful respect to this kindly Scotch herb doctor. Uncle Robert, as he was known, the son of Michael and Lizzie McKnight, was born in Glaseow, Scotland, January 1, 1803. As a youth he was converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by the first missionaries to Scotland.<sup>1</sup> His father turned him out of his home because of his new faith, but he was befriended by a Scotch botanist, in whose home he learned much concerning plants and medicinal herbs. He married and came to America in the general immigration of Mormon converts. His arrival in Heber in 1864 was a very welcome one, and he served as the only doctor there for many years. He displayed an untiring devotion to the people of the valley, often walking many miles under adverse conditions to be of service to the sick.

The pioneer midwives also rendered medical service of many types in addition to delivering children. Women such as Ann Giles, Ellen Clegg, Esther Wagstaff, Hannah

<sup>1</sup>Emma Wherritt, "Doctors of Wasatch County," MSS, (Daughters of Utah Pioneers Historical Collection, Heber City, 1952), p. 1.



Robert  
McKnight  
Herb Doctor



Ellen  
Clegg



Esther  
Wagstaff



Hanah  
Nicols



Cordelia  
Wilson



Christina  
Lindsay



Margaret  
Watkins



Polly Derby  
Mecham



Julia Ann  
Cook



Rosella  
Ann Mecham

## HEBER BIOGRAPHIES

Robert McKnight, or Uncle Bob, as he was commonly known, was the son of Michael and Lizzie McKnight. He was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on January 1, 1803. He was converted and baptized quite young into the LDS Church by some of the first missionaries. He took up the work with great zeal and did much work in the old country. He was a strong advocate of the doctrines of Mormonism.

An educated botanist took him over the hills, studying many kinds of herbs and their uses. He became known as an herb doctor and the rest of his life was spent in helping people.

He was an exemplary gentleman, highly respected by his friends and neighbors. In Scotland he was known as the cholera doctor during the great epidemic of this disease. He was called out of the coal mines to help fight it.

He was over six feet tall, with red hair and beard. Active and self-assertive, he was a fluent speaker, a man whom God had blessed with the gift of healing, and was often called out of the mines to administer to the sick.

He also worked in the coal mines of Pennsylvania, where he met his future wife, Katherine Shields McMurray.

At Winter Quarters he was captain of immigrants. His duty was to prepare tents and places for them to stay until teams met them from Utah. Here he met William Lindsay and his mother's family, and Mary Montgomery and her family. He placed the saints in the wagon trains in which they were to cross the plains.

In 1862 he brought his family to Utah. They lived in Salt Lake two years and then came to Heber, where they lived several months with Mrs. Maggie Stevenson until their own home was finished at First South and First East, where John A. Anderson's house now stands.

He doctored exclusively with herbs in this valley for many years, for which he never charged. He used to walk to Woodland, American Fork and Provo, and had a great deal of success in helping those with St. Vitus dance.

He was a willy man and always had a clever answer because of his brilliancy, and had he had the opportunity of receiving an education it is believed he would have at-

tained great success as a doctor. He died at the age of 96.

KATHERINE SHIELDS  
McMURRAY McKNIGHT

Katherine Shields was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on April 30, 1817. As a girl and young lady she worked in the woolen mills. She married George McMurray in 1937 and had a son, George McMurray Jr.

She came to America with her son. Her husband intended to come after he had earned more money, but he did not come. After many years she married Robert McKnight and to them was born another son, Robert McKnight Jr.

In 1862 they came to Utah and lived on the block where the City and County Building now stands. While there she worked for Brigham Young. When they moved into their own home in Heber she was very proud and happy. It was a one-room log cabin, with one window and one door. There was a fireplace and all the furniture was homemade. She baked her bread in an iron bake skillet. She was exceptionally clean and tidy in her home and about herself, and was a wonderful cook and homemaker, her home being always well-kept and her curtains always a dainty white. The walls were whitewashed.

She and her husband loved children and she generally had cookies and small seed cakes for them, while he always had peppermints and horehound candy in his pocket for them. She made yeast out of hops and the neighbors around came to trade a little flour for some of her yeast.

She stayed home and was quiet, kind and free-hearted, and was loved by everyone who knew her. She served as Relief Society teacher many years at the time Mrs. Lee was president.

ROBERT McKNIGHT SR.  
(McNAUGHT)

Robert McKnight Sr. (McNaught) was born in Glasgow, Scotland, January 1, 1803, son of Michael and Lizzie McKnight.

Robert McKnight Sr. was married twice, once in Scotland and again in America.

In Pennsylvania he met and married Katherine Shields McMurray, who had one son, George<sup>M</sup> Murray, by a former marriage, and later had another son, Robert McKnight Jr.

Katherine Shields was born in Glasgow, Scotland, April 30, 1817. In 1837 she married George McMurray. She died October 13, 1900. *Thomas*

"How Beautiful Upon The Mts"  
p. 426-7



## HEBER BIOGRAPHIES

Robert McKnight, or Uncle Bob, as he was commonly known, was the son of Michael and Lizzie McKnight. He was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on January 1, 1803. He was converted and baptized quite young into the LDS Church by some of the first missionaries. He took up the work with great zeal and did much work in the old country. He was a strong advocate of the doctrines of Mormonism.

An educated botanist took him over the hills, studying many kinds of herbs and their uses. He became known as an herb doctor and the rest of his life was spent in helping people.

He was an exemplary gentleman, highly respected by his friends and neighbors. In Scotland he was known as the cholera doctor during the great epidemic of this disease. He was called out of the coal mines to help fight it.

He was over six feet tall, with red hair and beard. Active and self-assertive, he was a fluent speaker, a man whom God had blessed with the gift of healing, and was often called out of the mines to administer to the sick.

He also worked in the coal mines of Pennsylvania, where he met his future wife, Katherine Shields McMurray.

At Winter Quarters he was captain of immigrants. His duty was to prepare tents and places for them to stay until teams met them from Utah. Here he met William Lindray and his mother's family, and Mary Montgomery and her family. He placed the saints in the wagon trains in which they were to cross the plains.

In 1862 he brought his family to Utah. They lived in Salt Lake two years and then came to Heber, where they lived several months with Mrs. Maggie Stevenson until their own home was finished at First South and First East, where John A. Anderson's house now stands.

He doctored exclusively with herbs in this valley for many years, for which he never charged. He used to walk to Woodland, American Fork and Provo, and had a great deal of success in helping those with St. Vitus dance.

He was a willy man and always had a clever answer because of his brilliancy, and had he had the opportunity of receiving an education it is believed he would have at-

tained great success as a doctor. He died at the age of 96.

KATHERINE SHIELDS  
McMURRAY McKNIGHT

Katherine Shields was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on April 30, 1817. As a girl and young lady she worked in the woolen mills. She married George McMurray in 1837 and had a son, George McMurray Jr.

She came to America with her son. Her husband intended to come after he had earned more money, but he did not come. After many years she married Robert McKnight and to them was born another son, Robert McKnight Jr.

In 1862 they came to Utah and lived on the block where the City and County Building now stands. While there she worked for Brigham Young. When they moved into their own home in Heber she was very proud and happy. It was a one-room log cabin, with one window and one door. There was a fireplace and all the furniture was homemade. She baked her bread in an iron bake skillet. She was exceptionally clean and tidy in her home and about herself, and was a wonderful cook and homemaker, her home being always well-kept and her curtains always a dainty white. The walls were whitewashed.

She and her husband loved children and she generally had cookies and small seed cakes for them, while he always had peppermints and horehound candy in his pocket for them. She made yeast out of hops and the neighbors around came to trade a little flour for some of her yeast.

She stayed home and was quiet, kind and free-hearted, and was loved by everyone who knew her. She served as Relief Society teacher many years at the time Mrs. Lee was president.

ROBERT McKNIGHT SR.  
(McNAUGHT)

Robert McKnight Sr. (McNaught) was born in Glasgow, Scotland, January 1, 1803, son of Michael and Lizzie McKnight.

Robert McKnight Sr. was married twice, once in Scotland and again in America.

In Pennsylvania he met and married Katherine Shields McMurray, who had one son, George Murray, by a former marriage, and later had another son, Robert McKnight Jr.

Katherine Shields was born in Glasgow, Scotland, April 30, 1817. In 1837 she married George McMurray. She died October 13, 1900.

*"How Beautiful upon the Mts"*  
p. 42

